

in Japan, inclosing a copy of a Notice which he had caused to be published for the information of Her Majesty's subjects in that country.

#### NOTIFICATION.

The undersigned publishes, for the general information of Her Britannic Majesty's subjects, the annexed translation of a communication which he has received from the Japanese Ministers for Foreign Affairs, informing him of certain reductions in the duties on singlets and drawers, which take effect on and from the 1st of January next.

(Signed) HARRY S. PARKES,  
H.B.M.'s Envoy Extraordinary and  
Minister Plenipotentiary.

H. B. M.'s Legation,  
Yedo, December, 21st, 1869.

(Translation.)

SIR, November 23rd, 1869.

WE have the honour to inform you that in consequence of an arrangement made when the Treaty was concluded with the North German Confederation, the following reductions have been made in the import duties on the articles mentioned below, which are found under the heading "Cotton and Woollen Mixtures" in the Tariff:

	boo cent.
Cotton Singlets and Drawers per dozen	
Former duty ... ..	30
Reduced duty ... ..	25
Wollen Singlets and Drawers per dozen	
Former duty ... ..	1 00
Reduced duty ... ..	80
Cotton and Woollen mixed Singlets and Drawers per dozen	
Former duty ... ..	60
Reduced duty ... ..	50

The above reductions will come into operation from the 1st day of January, 1870.

We have the honour to request you to issue a notification to British subjects to the above effect.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) SAWA JU SAN I KIYOWARA  
KORIYOSHI,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

" TERASHIMA JU SHI I FUJIWARA  
MUNENORI,  
Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs.

His Excellency  
Sir Harry S. Parkes, K.C.B.,  
&c., &c., &c.

(C. 464.)

Board of Trade, Whitehall,  
April 13, 1870.

THE Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade have received, from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a Despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Brussels, reporting that the Committee of the Chamber of Deputies appointed to examine the law on fiscal reforms have agreed to the following modifications:—

The diminution of postage to 10 centimes on single letters in Belgium, and the increase in the duties on spirits, will take place on 1st June next.

The abolition of the excise duty on salt, and of the import duties on fish, and on the sulphites and

sulphates of soda, will only take effect on the 1st January, 1871.

The duty on the importation of carbonate of soda will be reduced, from 1st January, 1871, to two francs; from 1st January, 1872, to one franc; and will be completely abolished in 1873.

The Belgian salt refiners will receive a reduction of 12 per cent. on the duties on salt in warehouse on 31st December, 1870.

(C. 474.)

Board of Trade, Whitehall,  
April 14, 1870.

THE Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade have received, from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a Despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Yedo, transmitting the subjoined Notification which he has issued for the information of British subjects, in consequence of a request to that effect received from the Government of Japan:—

#### NOTIFICATION.

The undersigned, in common with the Representatives of the other Treaty Powers, has been requested by the Japanese Government to make known, for the information of their respective countrymen, the determination of the Japanese Government to enforce the provisions of the Treaties in respect to the trading of foreign vessels in non-opened ports in Japan.

The United States has accordingly to warn British subjects of the penalties they incur by the commission of any breach of the aforesaid stipulations.

(Signed) HARRY S. PARKES.

H. B. M.'s Legation,  
Yedo, December 21, 1869.

(C. 476.)

Board of Trade, Whitehall,  
April 14, 1870.

THE Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade have received, from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a Despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Lisbon, transmitting a Decree of the Portuguese Government, dated March 28, 1870, which imposes an additional duty upon the importation of Flour into that country.

The following are the Articles of that Decree:—

ART. 1. From and after the date of this Decree, all flour imported through the sea-ports of the continental part of the Kingdom shall pay, in addition to the duty of 80 reis (3s. 6<sup>0</sup>/<sub>64</sub>.) per 100 kilogrammes, as provided in the Decree of the 11th April, 1865, a further duty of 400 reis (1s. 9<sup>33</sup>/<sub>64</sub>.) per 100 kilogrammes.

ART. 2. The proceeds of this latter duty shall be kept in deposit in the coffers of the different Custom-houses, until the Cortes shall have decided whether the said additional duty shall be returned to the respective importers, or be entered as revenue of the State.